

MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC
May 10, 2004

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, third floor of the Municipal Building, with Mayor Robert D. Parrott presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Council Member Craft, and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott
Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller
Council Member Mildred A. Council
Council Member Ray Craft
Council Member Pat Dunn
Council Member Rose H. Glover
Council Member Chip Little
Marvin W. Davis, City Manager
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk
David A. Holec, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Council and seconded by Council Member Glover to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller to approve all the items under the consent agenda as listed below. Motion carried unanimously.

- (1) Minutes of the March 11, March 15, March 18, March 22, March 29, April 5, April 8, and April 19, 2004 City Council Meetings
- (2) Ordinance amending the meeting schedule of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Cable Television (Ordinance No. 04-36)
- (3) Consideration of various tax refunds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Stewart C. and Mary S. Laneave, Jr.	Square footage of residence incorrect	\$453.96
Provident Auto Leasing Co.	Vehicle charged in city limits in error	\$109.48
Merrill Lynch Pitt Co. Tax Collector for Sharon S. Staton	Adjust value on airplane	\$1,715.85
David Charles Schlien	Mobile Home double charged	\$176.65
	Prorate taxes on vehicle	\$111.14

Online Information Serv.	Business personal property charged in error. The business moved into the Town of Winterville	\$1,953.37
Emerald Leasing Corp.	Business closed in October 2001	
Fox Harbour #9 Location	Charged in error	\$ 233.41

PRESENTATIONS BY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Pitt-Greenville Convention and Visitors Authority

Mr. Bob Simon, Chairman of the Pitt-Greenville Convention and Visitors Authority, informed the Council that Debbie Vargas and her staff handle over 8,000 requests for information in general about Greenville, Pitt County, and North Carolina. They also handle Convention Center questions and site tours and aid the Convention Center staff with booking business. The coordination between the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Exhibit Hall Managers (EHM) continues to be very good. This year there were some improvements to the Convention Center. The addition of carpeting and acoustic panels on the wall have aided in the acoustical nature of the Convention Center. Future improvements that they are working to accomplish are upgrading the HVAC System in the pre-function area and the break room. They are seeking to find a consultant to analyze the functionality of the Center as a whole. They want to make this Convention Center the best and to try to improve it as much as possible. Mr. Simon stated that a few points of interest from the Convention and Visitors Bureau are:

- Greenville is recognized as a major destination for the statewide athletic market. In the winter, the Bureau worked with the staff of Boyd Lee to solicit tournament organizers with great success. Upwards of 12 tournaments, 3 statewide tournaments will be played at Boyd Lee Park this summer.
- This year occupancy tax receipts were up 11% over what was received this time last year. This is the first upward revision in the number of years. Hopefully, this will continue to happen and will help budgetary issues.
- Every year, the Bureau staff fulfills over 8,600 requests for information on Greenville, Pitt County and Eastern North Carolina.
- The co-op advertising campaign between the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Convention Center to market the area as a destination for meetings and conventions and major events received recognition for the 2003 Addy Awards. This was between the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Convention Center. It was a very unique marketing concept and they received gold medals for the meeting package campaign "Multi-day Formula" and "Multi-site Salve" advertisements; and a silver medal for their "Multi-site Solution" advertisement. These are very interesting ads put together by Debbie Vargas and her staff and the Exhibit Hall Managers.

Mr. Simon summarized some points of interest from the Exhibit Hall Managers. He stated this is the third year of the operation of the Convention Center. During the first two years of operation, the Convention Center hosted 300 event days and welcomed over 50,000 guests to the Convention Center campus. The business mix for the first two years was 40% percent conference and conventions, 35% consumer and tradeshow, 15% entertainment, and 10% social

events. Some of the highlight events over the past couple of years are Grady White National Sales meeting, Sportstown USA program, ECU Annual Dr. Billy Taylor Jazz Festival, NACCO Materials Conference (scheduled for this fall), North Carolina Pork Producers, Vegetables Growers, North Carolina Methodist Conference, and FWB National Convention. All are either returning or planning events here this year. In September, Dr. Chitwood will be hosting an international symposium attracting 250 physicians from around the world and web casting internationally the events from the Center. Mr. Simon thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that they would continue to work with the City to bring worthy events to the City and County.

Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority

Mr. Jim Turcotte, Airport Manager of the Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority, stated that 503 acres of land was purchased for the airport for \$6,500 by the City of Greenville and Pitt County for use as a municipal airport. The Work Progress Administration then created a tariff airfield and the US Marine Corps created a training base here in 1943. From 1946 when the military returned the airfield to the community until 1974, little was done to maintain or improve the facility. In 1966, they vacated a World War II quonset hut and occupied a 1,400 sq. ft. terminal building. Since 1974 and following \$32 million in capital improvements, the airport has never been in as good condition as now. The airfield is now nearly 1000 acres. The internal complex is over 23,000 square feet and the commercial traffic is on the rise. As the aerial gateway to Greenville and Pitt County, the airport is now a vital link for the continued enhanced growth of this region and continues to be an impelling force for the economic and cultural enhancement of the community. It is classified by the Federal Aviation Administration as a non-hub commercial service regional airport. It is served by scheduled airlines by US Airways Express with daily scheduled round-trips to the US Airways Hub in Charlotte. Pitt-Greenville Airport is the only airport in North Carolina with commercial airline service that was not originated by the old Piedmont Airline system back in the 1950s. Not only does the continuation of the air service provide an economic engine to the community, it also enables the City to have special events such as the East Carolina University football charters. This past season they accommodated all but one flight from both East Carolina University and their visiting teams. Additionally, several visiting baseball teams utilize the airline charters to and from the Pitt-Greenville Airport. Utilizing 37 and 50 seat aircraft and with the new fare structure closely aligned to Raleigh-Durham fares, staff has seen their traffic surge some 45% over the last 60 days. The presence and fees of the airlines and the ancillary income from the for-fee parking lot, auto rental lease fees, transportation security administration lease agreement, advertisement, and the restaurant generate over 50% of their revenue stream.

Mr. Turcotte stated that in addition to the airline activity, the Pitt-Greenville Airport serves as a portal entry for merit and corporate business aircraft coming to conduct their business in the community. Other services located at the airport include flight training, aircraft maintenance, aircraft rentals, airfreight, and auto rental companies. There are 65 aircraft based at the airport belonging to the local businesses and individuals. These, along with the property of the tenant agencies located at the airport, generates some \$350,000 in local property taxes paid jointly to the County and City. The City of Greenville and Pitt County provided over 60% of their annual operations budget. In today's environment, that would have meant asking the City and County to provide \$770,000. This will be the nineteenth year that their budget has been prepared

without any operational subsidies requested from either the City of Greenville or Pitt County. During these nineteen years, the Airport Authority will have generated adequate revenues to offsite nearly \$20 million in operational expenses. Any adverse change to the present status quo would present adverse results. There is no guaranteed source of revenue for the airport. They have to earn what they spend. They have been able to accomplish this feat by maintaining this operation with a limited number of highly motivated productive and diversely talented employees. This competent airport staff operates and maintains the entire airport complex of buildings, grounds, equipment and customer base in a myriad of state, local and federal regulations and paperwork that goes along with it with very little outside assistance. With just two months left to go in this fiscal year, they are confident that they have been able to control expenses and maximize revenues to the point not including depreciation expenses that their income will out pace their expenses. Their current and past financial success allows the airport to not only conduct its day-to-day operations in a self-sufficient manner, but is allowed for all recent local capital project funding to be met by airport authority resources. The Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority has been successful in generating adequate revenue not only to pay its day-to-day operating expenses but also to provide the local funds necessary to undertake those federal and state aid grants. These federal and state monies can only be utilized for capital and infrastructure improvements or specialized equipment. For over two years they have been working on major renovations for the airfield. These started with the runway safety area, the mitigation site that they are required by the Corps of Engineers to conduct later, and the taxiways realignment which allowed for them the room to do the aircraft parking apron reconstruction and expansion. All of these are now completed. Their most recent project entails the acquisition of a new state of the art airport rescue and fire fighting vehicle. One of the next projects is going to be the expansion of the fire building. Along the same lines of public safety and protection, the Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority with great assistance from the City of Greenville and Pitt County Fire Alarm Enforcement Rescue Services have conducted their annual three-year disaster drill, which is required under the Airport Federal Aviation Administration operating certificate.

Mr. Turcotte briefly identified some of the airport's accomplishments this past year. In the current year, they have received FAA and state grants of approximately of \$650,000. They anticipated additional grants for the new airport rescue fire fighting facility and the final portion of the tax rate realignment at \$1.7 million. They are not requesting capital money from the City of Greenville nor Pitt County and have not for the 5 or past 6 years. There were four storms this year. All snow removal has been accomplished by airport staff from equipment that they were able to acquire from military surplus. They undertook a successful advertising campaign both in print and media. It occurred the same time that US Airways dropped their fees.

Mr. Turcotte stated that the airport is looking at expenses next year of \$1,777,500 and airport improvements of \$1,050,000 for a total airport budget expense of \$2,827,500. On the revenue side, the Airport Authority is going to generate \$1,827,500 and they are expecting a \$1 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration

Mr. Turcotte stated the City Council will have an issue coming before them from the Planning Department and it is the update of the airport [height] zoning ordinance. The airport [height] zoning ordinance was originally put in effect May 11, 1944. Tomorrow will be its 60th birthday. This ordinance was amended in 1977. This is an ordinance that prevents anything tall being constructed in the airways going in and out of the airport. It is a mandate from the Federal

Aviation Administration that this be in effect. One of their recourses is to cut off all funding. The other recourse is to come back and get everything that they have given them in the past. It is an important issue. Since 1977, they have had some infrastructure and operational changes to the airport. The big issues are they have extended the runway. They had to change the numerical headings of the runway because of magnetic declination. The old ordinance depicted a runway as 119 where it is now 220. The third thing is because of technology a number of their runways have global positioning system approaches to them. That is now reflected in the new ordinance.

It was determined that is not necessary for Mr. Turcotte to appear before the City Council on May 24 to give the budget presentation again for Pitt-Greenville airport.

Recreation and Parks Commission

Mrs. Sandra Hickman, Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Commission, summarized some of the special events, activities and programs that they have done in the past year.

- Aquatics and Fitness Center: The senior citizens had their second annual health fair at the Aquatics and Fitness Center. Over 200 people attended the ultra screening services and cholesterol checks, bone density, and arteries testing were provided.
- Special Olympics: In special populations, Lake Christie Triathlon raised over \$10,000 for Special Olympics. Greenville and Pitt County received Level I accreditation, which is the highest level in the Special Olympics in North Carolina. They also received a grant of \$12,500 from the United Way. Also, Greenville hosted the State Special Olympics Basketball Tournament. Fifty-six counties in North Carolina were here and it was a great turnout. Special Olympics cosponsored the Kids Fest that was held at the Greenville Convention Center with over 3,000 people attending.
- Bradford Creek: Bradford Creek plays host to some of the top golf events in the state. East Carolina University hosts three collegiate events each year. Each event brings in 15 to 24 college teams from across the nation. They also started a junior tournament about 5 years and it has become one of the top junior tournaments in the state. This past year event had 130 juniors ranging from ages 8 to 18.
- River Birch Tennis Center: They hosted the Down East Australian Open Tennis Tournament with over 80 people participating. The Recreation and Parks tennis program received recognition and award at the North Carolina Mix and Combo Doubles League Coordinators meeting. The Downeast Mix Doubles League grew from 371 players in 2002 to 491 players in 2003.
- Athletics: Greenville hosted the North Carolina and Parks Society State-wide Athletics Convention Committee U-10 and U-12 Recreation Division Basketball Tournament and 29 teams were here. The Recreation and Parks Department also hosted the All-Star Youth Flag Football Games and assisted with the Beast of East Soccer Tournament. Specific camps were added to include baseball, basketball, flag football and eurotech soccer. Also, soccer and basketball programs were developed for ages 3 through 4 as well as an adult flag football program. They assisted the ECU Recreation Services to hold the collegiate regional ultimate frisbee tournament. The Recreation and Parks Department has continued with their online registration for the programs, which is going really well.

- This year they were able to have lighting at the Jackie Robinson Baseball Field. A grand opening was held for the Greenville Toyota Amphitheater. A groundbreaking was held for the new Walter Stasavich Science and Nature Center.

Mrs. Hickman concluded by stating that because of all the things that the Recreation and Parks Department has done, Greenville was named Sportstown USA.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A TAXICAB FRANCHISE FOR CALVIN SAMPSON D/B/A COMFORT CAB SERVICE

City Attorney Dave Holec presented the Council with an ordinance that would grant a taxicab franchise to Calvin Sampson d/b/a Comfort Cab Service. The second reading of the ordinance and public hearing is scheduled for May 13, 2004. Staff has no problem with the request.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Council to approve on first reading the ordinance granting a taxicab franchise to Calvin Sampson d/b/a Comfort Cab Service. Motion carried unanimously.

The ordinance as approved on first reading read as follows:

"COPY"

ORDINANCE NO. _____
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A TAXICAB FRANCHISE
FOR CALVIN SAMPSON D/B/A COMFORT CAB SERVICE

WHEREAS, the City of Greenville is authorized by G.S. 160A-304 to license and regulate all vehicles operated for hire within the City of Greenville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenville has adopted an ordinance, Title 1 of Chapter 11 of the Greenville City Code, requiring the operators of taxicab businesses within the City to obtain a franchise from the City permitting said operation, and said ordinance sets forth certain requirements and criteria that must be satisfied in order to obtain and maintain the franchise for the operation of a taxicab business; and

WHEREAS, Calvin Sampson d/b/a Comfort Cab Service is an applicant for a franchise permitting the operation of one taxicab within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, following investigation into the qualifications of the applicant, the City Council has determined that the applicant satisfies the requirements and conditions for the operation of a taxicab business within the City and have presented evidence substantiating the public convenience and necessity of such a business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Greenville City Council that:

Section 1. A taxicab franchise is hereby issued to Calvin Sampson d/b/a Comfort Cab Service to permit the operation within the City of Greenville of one taxicab.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. Any part or provision of this ordinance found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or North Carolina is hereby deemed severable and shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of the ordinance.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

First reading passed on this the 10th day of May, 2004.

Robert D. Parrott, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk

“COPY”

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FY 2004-05 BUDGET

Mayor Parrott stated that with the growth being experienced in Greenville, there continues to be a lot of needs. The City is trying to address those needs. If this isn't done, there will be major expenses down the road. The staff and City Council have come up with a good balanced budget. He asked the Deputy City Manager to review it.

Deputy City Manager Bill Richardson presented a balanced \$55.7 million budget to the City Council and stated that it contains a 2.7% increase over FY 2003-04. The biggest impact on the budget is the COPS projects. A three percent sales tax growth has been projected. No General Obligation bond projects have been included in the budget. In the departmental budgets presented to the City Manager, there were 64.75 positions requested, 20 of which are being recommended for funding. Those include twelve positions for Fire/Rescue Station #6, eight full-time positions, and changing one part-time position to a full-time position. These positions are needed to help meet the backlog of needs. The salaries will come from multiple funding sources. The proposed FY 2004-05 budget reflects adopted compensation study recommendations.

Deputy City Manager Richardson continued by stating that the proposed operating budget includes a 3.5% increase in operating costs, which is due to the COPS projects. The total capital improvements included is \$2.7 million, which is less than FY 2003-04 budget. Of that amount, \$1.1 million will be funded through lease purchase. The total in the proposed FY 2004-05 budget for capital outlay is \$1.4 million, less than in the FY 2003-04 budget. It includes \$.9 million in lease purchases.

Deputy City Manager Richardson gave examples of items included in the budget—street resurfacing (\$350,000), sidewalk installation (\$200,000), technology capital equipment

(\$486,000), Bank of America lease (\$110,000), and library (\$876,000). The \$14.8 million in COPS projects that were approved by the Council will have a big impact on the budget. They include:

- Fire/Rescue Station #6, Training Center and Equipment
- Administrative Facilities Renovations/Expansion
- Carver Library Expansion
- Park Development
 - Red Oak
 - Greenfield Terrace
 - Guy Smith Stadium

Deputy City Manager Richardson stated that there was a County revaluation of real property that required that the Council change the tax rate to a revenue neutral amount. The last revaluation was in 1996, when there was a \$3.2 billion real property value assessment. The revaluation netted a 30.48% increase. The current tax rate is \$.615/\$100, which will be \$.521/\$100 under the revenue neutral rate.

Deputy City Manager stated that in order to balance the budget, expenditures were reduced by \$12.9 million. Use of appropriated fund balance was kept at last year's level. Grants were utilized. The recommended tax rate is \$.565, a \$.06 cent decrease from the current year. The challenges that staff has to meet are responding to financial demands of growth, economic uncertainty, identifying unmet Capital Improvements \$86 million for the next five years and having a multi-year backlog of personnel needs. The presentation of balanced budgets will be May 24. The public hearing on the FY 2004-05 budget will be held June 7, and on June 10, the Council will consider adoption of the FY 2004-05 budget.

The following issues were brought up, along with questions that were asked of staff and responses given.

What is the total cost for new positions?

(RESPONSE: It is approximately \$350,000 including benefits. There is proposed a 1.5 percent merit increase and a 3.9 percent cost of living increase.) Staff was asked to get the dollar amounts to the Council by the 13th meeting.

Do the numbers included in personnel include the people who work on a contract basis?

(RESPONSE: That is part-time salaries in the respective departments.)

Does annexing areas pay for itself?

(RESPONSE: No. It puts additional demands on staff, equipment, etc. A lot depends on the level of service. As long as a good level of service is provided, someone has to pay. That level of service helps make the community attractive.)

Premiums on fire insurance are less because of the high level of service provided by the Fire Department. Those services could be cut, but the citizens would have a higher insurance premium.

County people benefit from City services, but don't pay the cost.

Taxes don't even cover Fire, Rescue and Police services.

The City should have added revenues with annexation. The city may need to look at its fee schedule.

City residents pay City and County taxes.

The City needs to promote infill development instead of sprawl. That is much more cost effective.

Greenville Utilities customers who live outside the City pay a higher rate, and the City gets some of that.

Why can't the public hearing be held on the 24th of May?
(RESPONSE: Staff will look at that.)

There hasn't been that many people expressing concern about the proposed tax increase.

REVIEW OF MAY 13, 2004 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The Council did a cursory review of the items on the May 13, 2004 City Council agenda and reviewed the appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Deputy City Manager reported that the following changes need to be made to the May 13 agenda.

- The rezoning request for Joseph Speight that is on the May 13 agenda needs to be continued until June.
- An addition of acceptance of a grant award from the Division of Cultural Resources needs to be placed on the May 13 agenda in order to meet a deadline for acceptance.
- Pitt County Memorial Hospital wishes to appear before Council to present a special recognition.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member Council to add the May 13 agenda a special recognition by Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and seconded by Council Member grant to place acceptance of the grant as Item #23A on the May 13 agenda.

Motion was made by Council Member Little and seconded by Council Member Dunn to continue the Speight rezoning until June 10. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Dunn stated that the City received the Tree City Award.

Council Member Dunn thanked the staff for the hard work on the budget.

Council Member Council congratulated all graduates.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller stated that there is no traffic this week because East Carolina University is out of session. They will be back soon.

Council Member Glover stated that the Police Community Relations Committee will meet this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club.

Council Member Glover congratulated the Pitt Community College JobLink Center for receiving the Level III Status. This is the highest level that can be received. This agency has done a lot to simulate jobs. She asked the Council to do some time of recognition.

Mayor Parrott thanked the Deputy City Manager for doing such a good job tonight. and stated that the City Manager is out temporarily. The Council wishes him well.

There were no comments from the Mayor and City Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Deputy City Manager Richardson reminded the Council of the Police Memorial and Awards Ceremony to be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at 3:00 p.m., in Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church.

Deputy City Manager Richardson informed the Council that Town Hall Day will be held on June 9, 2004.

An open house will be held at Carver Library on May 17 at 5:30 p.m.

A press release went out today announcing that Mike Burton has been hired as the new Fire/Rescue Chief. He will begin work on July 6.

The staff in the Community Building has now been relocated to the Bank of American Building.

City Manager Marvin Davis is recuperating from surgery and is doing well. He hopes to be back shortly.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Council to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, CMC
City Clerk